

Senate Resolution 105 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY McCOY

1 A Resolution to recognize and celebrate the life, work,
2 and public service of John Ruan.

3 WHEREAS, former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
4 of the Ruan Companies, John Ruan has passed on, at the
5 age of 96; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Ruan filled most of a century with
7 personal achievement and public service at a local,
8 national, and international level; and

9 WHEREAS, beginning in 1932, loading and hauling
10 gravel, by 1957, Mr. Ruan had become the nation's
11 largest carrier of bulk petroleum products and over the
12 decades expanded his holdings into banking with Bankers
13 Trust Company, and into brokerage services and dairy
14 transportation; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1975, Mr. Ruan completed construction
16 of Des Moines' first true skyscraper, the 36-story
17 Ruan Center, and went on to play a key role in the
18 redevelopment of downtown Des Moines, which included
19 the building of the 33-story Marriott Hotel in
20 1980; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Ruan has always demonstrated a passion
22 for public service that has benefitted not only Iowa,
23 but the nation and the world; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1970, Mr. Ruan founded the MS/Charity,
25 providing much of the nation's funding in the fight
26 against multiple sclerosis, and the John Ruan Multiple
27 Sclerosis Golf Exhibition, one of the largest MS
28 charity fundraising events in the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Ruan then became the principal sponsor
2 and Chairman Emeritus of the World Food Prize, the
3 foremost international award for food production and
4 combating of hunger; and

5 WHEREAS, the recipient of numerous awards and
6 accolades, including the Iowa Award in 2001, the legacy
7 of Mr. Ruan's public service will continue long into
8 the future through the John Ruan Foundation Trust; NOW
9 THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
11 honors the life and work of John Ruan, a visionary
12 entrepreneur, community developer, and a philanthropist
13 who, through decades of service, provided both help and
14 hope for his community, the state, and the world, and
15 especially for those in need.